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O 172106Z MAR 09  
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
TO RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 0202  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6224  
INFO RUCNCOM/EC CARICOM COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS NASSAU 000169

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR ZSYED; LONDON FOR CPALMER

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [BF](#) [TK](#) [UK](#)  
SUBJECT: ALL QUIET ON THE TURKS AND CAICOS FRONT

REF: 08 NASSAU 898

1. (U) The GCOB is "unconcerned" about the UK's planned partial suspension of the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) constitution announced March 16 by the British overseas dependency's governor. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Brent Symonette told the press that the changes would have no effect on relations or joint programs, such as OPBAT. The MFA Permanent Secretary told PolChief this was an internal affair and that the GCOB was unworried.

2. (SBU) CGLO in consultation with Coast Guard District 7 advised staff based in TCI to continue normal operations, but avoid public gatherings and minimize contacts with the local population for the next few days. CG staff are to report any public gatherings to Post immediately.

3. (SBU) An American citizen warden reported no disturbances and expects a positive local reaction to the announcement. Some islanders reportedly expressed relief at "the good news" and hope that years of bad government will come to an end (reftel).

4. (U) Local media in Nassau covered the governor's announcement without editorial commentary.

5. (U) Post will continue to monitor the situation and report septel.  
ZUNIGA-BROWN